

**“The Authority of the Bible”**  
“Know What You Believe” — Part 4  
2 Timothy 3:16-17

**God has spoken!**

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.  
2 Timothy 3:16-17

***“We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.”***

**Note:** One of the greatest crisis facing the Church today is the battle for the authority of the Word of God. Everything Christianity believes hinges on the reality, reliability and authority of the Bible.

**1. How has God spoken?**

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.  
Genesis 1:3

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.  
Psalm 19:1-4

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."  
Genesis 1:27-28

Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.  
Amos 3:7

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.  
Psalm 119:105

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.  
John 1:14

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,

whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word...

Hebrews 1:1-3

### **Implications:**

- The God of the Bible is a God who has chosen to reveal Himself to us.
- The God of the Bible is a God who speaks.
- God has spoken to us in the most personal way possible—in the person of His Son dwelling among us.

## **2. How has God spoken in the Scriptures?**

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Luke 24:44

Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

2 Peter 3:15-16

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2 Timothy 3:16-17

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:20-21

**40 authors**

**66 books**

**During a period of 1,500 years**

**1 coherent message**

### **Implications:**

- As its ultimate Author, God speaks to us in the Scriptures.
- We receive God's revelation; we do not create it.
- As the inspired Word of God, we affirm three essential qualities of the Bible—it is true, it is complete, and it is authoritative.

## **3. Can you trust the Bible?**

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

John 17:17

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

...And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.  
1 John 5:6

**Implications:**

- Our commitment to Christ as Lord is manifest in our submission to the Scriptures.
- All that the Bible teaches us we ought to believe.
- All that the Bible requires of us we ought to obey.
- All that the Bible promises us we ought to trust.
- What the Bible says, God says.
- You can put the Bible to the test.

Taste and see that the Lord is good... Psalm 34:8

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened...  
Ephesians 1:18

If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. John 7:17

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you. 1 Peter 1:23-25